

increasing certain powers of the judges of the People's Court for Montgomery County, with limitations thereon, and providing generally for establishment of rules for operation of said court and the force and effect of said rules, and permitting counter claims and/or setoffs in all civil cases.

**SECTION 1.** *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Section 92B of Article 52 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1956 Supplement), title "Justices of the Peace," sub-title "Trial Magistrates System," be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

92B. Same—Jurisdiction, powers, etc.; fees; appeals.

The judges of the People's Court of Montgomery County, except the People's Court Judge for Juvenile Causes, shall have all the authority, powers, civil, criminal and juvenile jurisdiction, in the whole of said county, heretofore vested in the Justices of the Peace designated as Trial Magistrates and other Justices of the peace of said County; provided, the authority, powers and jurisdiction heretofore, or as may hereafter be vested in said other Justices of the Peace shall be unaffected by this provision. [The judges of the People's Court shall further have the power to suspend sentence and/or costs in any case within their jurisdiction within ten days after judgment has been pronounced.]

*In addition to the powers above enumerated, and not in derogation or limitation thereof, the Judges of the People's Court shall have the following powers:*

(a) *To suspend or reduce sentence and/or costs in any case within their jurisdiction within ten days after judgment has been pronounced, provided, however, that the Court shall not be authorized to reduce the fine for any criminal or traffic offense below the minimum fine prescribed by law for such offense, and provided further, that nothing herein shall be construed to affect the power of the Court to suspend any such fine entirely.*

(b) *To regulate by rules the administration, procedure and practice of said court, such rules to have the force of law until rescinded or modified by the said Judges or the General Assembly, provided, however, that no formal pleadings shall be required in any case before the said Court, and provided further, however, that counter claims and/or set-offs shall be permitted in all civil cases.*

The laws which heretofore have specified the fees chargeable by Trial Magistrates and Justices of the Peace in Montgomery County and also the laws previously concerning the right of appeal from the Trial Magistrates and Justices of the Peace in Montgomery County shall continue in all respects to be effective as to the People's Court of Montgomery County herein created.

**SEC. 2.** *And be it further enacted,* That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1957.

Approved March 11, 1957.